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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In light of applicants' amendment of April 23, 2004 and upon reconsideration the rejections under 35 USC 103 and 112 have been withdrawn. The prior art neither teaches nor suggest the particular reaction as presently recited in the claims. Obtaining the claimed dilutor products from dichloride starting materials where ketene is present with a C-H at the alpha position is not taught or described in the prior art. Nor is there a teaching or suggestion to modify any reference to obtain the claimed invention. As to the 112 rejection, the R substituents are not critical to the key reaction mechanism and reactive site.

Accordingly, claims 1-20 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond

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Covington whose telephone number is (703) 308-4704. The examiner can

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normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, J. McKane can be reached on (571) 272-0699. The

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding

is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained

from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status

information for published applications may be obtained from either Private

PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is

available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access

to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at

866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Raymond Covington

Examiner

Art Unit 1625

/E RKC

Cecilia J. Tsang

Supervisory Patent Examiner Technology Center 1600

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